

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 23 and 44 and replace the original sheets including Figs. 23 and 44.

In Fig. 23, the reference numeral W_f on the right hand side of the drawing rearward of pivot axis 70 has been replaced with the reference numeral W_r , in order to correct a typographical error. Support in the original specification is seen at e.g. page 18, line 30 to page 19 line 21, see in particular the discussion at page 19 lines 16-18 of W_f referring to the front portion and W_r referring to the rear portion. No new matter has been added.

In Fig. 44, the reference numeral θ_2 has been replaced with the reference numeral ϕ_2 as requested by Examiner, in order to correct a typographical error. Support in the original specification is seen at e.g. page 22, last paragraph. No new matter has been added.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (2 pages)
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (2 pages)

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Corrected drawings are submitted herewith. In the course of reviewing, a further typographical error was noted and is corrected in Figure 23.

The Examiner notes that the blank has not been filled in on page 11 of the specification. This has been corrected by amendment. The specification has also been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 11 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Examiner states that "there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation to 'a durometer of between about 28 and 60 Shore A' in the claims." Applicants believe that the Examiner means that this numerical range is not disclosed in the specification, other than in original claims 11 and 23. However, this is not the case. This range is disclosed at page 13, lines 18-19 of Applicant's specification. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, 16-19 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Apprille, Jr. (U.S. 5,855,071, hereafter "Apprille '071").

The Examiner asserts that Apprille '071 discloses a button substrate and a flexible canopy, alleging that ejector button 50 can be construed as a flexible canopy. This is simply not the case. There is no disclosure in Apprille '071 that would remotely suggest that the button 50 is flexible or is a "canopy." There is nothing to suggest that ejector button 50 is anything other than what it appears to be and would logically be, i.e., a rigid button constructed to be pushed forward by a user without deforming or flexing during its sliding movement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille '071 combined with Beresford-Jones (U.S. 4,298,778). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for the artisan to have applied the teachings of Beresford-Jones to Apprille '071, apparently to replace the ejector button 50 of Apprille '071 with the collapsible push-button of Beresford-Jones. Applicants respectfully disagree. The push-button of Beresford-Jones operates in a very different manner than the ejector button 54 of Apprille. For instance, the push-button of Beresford-Jones is actuated by pushing directly down, while the

ejector button of Apprille slides back and forth horizontally. Thus, the artisan would not have considered it obvious that the collapsible seal of Beresford-Jones would work properly and would not interfere with the sliding movement of Apprille's ejector button. Moreover, even if the teachings of these two references were combined, since neither reference teaches a button substrate and a flexible canopy extending from the button substrate toward the handle, Applicants' claimed invention would not be reached.

Claims 9 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille, Jr. (U.S. 4,756,082, hereafter "Apprille '082") combined with Beresford-Jones. In this case, the Examiner is construing button 66 in Apprille '082 as a flexible canopy. Again, there is nothing whatsoever in Apprille '082 to support this interpretation. There is nothing whatsoever to suggest that button 66 is anything but a rigid button. Moreover, as discussed above, button 66 functions differently from the vertically operable push-button of Beresford-Jones, and thus it would not have been obvious to replace button 66 with the collapsible shield of Beresford-Jones.

Claims 12 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille '071 combined with Jones (U.S. 6,898,855). Jones is cited merely for a teaching of a thermoplastic elastomer in a button on an ergonomic scraper, and does not supply that which is lacking in Apprille '071.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

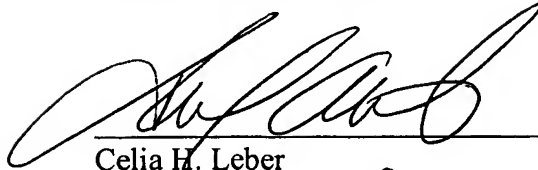
It is believed that no fees are due with this submission. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00216-664001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 44

